

Project Gray Conversation Notes

Proyek Abu-abu Sumali sa
 Projeto Cinza Participez à la conversation
 1101110 projectgray
 計劃 Abo Junte-se á conversa a Project Gray initiative — join the conversation

U.S. ARMY SPECIAL OPERATIONS CENTER OF EXCELLENCE



FALL 2016

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Hybrid Warfare and Low Intensity Conflict

Russian Special Operations Forces in Crimea and Donbas by Tor Bukkvoll

Russia has expertly employed Special Operations Forces (SOF) in warfare against Ukraine — both in Crimea and in Donbas. Russian hybrid warfare activities should be analyzed through a SOF lens to understand how Russia will continue to fight the West in the Gray Zone.

http://strategicstudiesinstitute.army.mil/pubs/parameters/issues/Summer_2016/5_Bukkvoll.pdf

A Transatlantic Strategy for Russia by Julianne Smith

Putin hopes that the West's interest in Ukraine will fade, while the West hopes that Putin will eventually come to view the risks as unbearable. Putin knows that maintaining unity among more than two dozen different NATO countries — each with its own set of interests, historical relationship with Russia and priorities — will only get harder over time.

<http://carnegieendowment.org/2016/08/29/transatlantic-strategy-for-russia-pub-64416>

U.S. Special Operations Forces at 9-11, Today, and for the Future

by Charles Cleveland and David Maxwell

The United States must rethink its traditional approach to conflict in order to defeat Gray Zone threats. Policymakers need to reexamine ways to seamlessly and simultaneously apply all instruments of national power. <https://www.thecipherbrief.com/article/north-america/us-special-operations-forces-9-11-today-and-future-1091>

about projectgray

Project Gray is an initiative to promote dialogue and discussions on gray zone challenges through events and publications bringing together academic scholars, research institutes and practitioners.

Upcoming

Project Gray Symposium
 "Russian Engagement in the Gray Zone"

October 19-20, 2016
 Fort McNair, NDU

Symposium details and registration available at
www.projectgray.org

Thinking Forward

Harnessing the Human Domain in Warfare by James F. Razuri

The character of modern conflict, where actors seek victory by eroding and exhausting the enemy instead of engaging him, was succinctly described by John F. Kennedy in 1962. Though the character of war is changing, its human-centric nature remains constant. <http://www.dtic.mil/ndia/2015SOLIC/HumanDomainFinalEdits.pdf>

Understanding Putin Through a Middle Eastern Looking Glass by John W. Parker

The United States needs to take Russia's interests into account in the Middle East and beyond. The region is more important than ever to the Kremlin and to Russian President Vladimir Putin's political legitimacy as a strong leader at home. <http://inss.ndu.edu/Media/News/Article/693501/understanding-putin-through-a-middle-eastern-looking-glass/>

The Future of the Army: Today, Tomorrow, and the Day after Tomorrow by David Barno and Norah Bensahel

The United States has entered an era of perpetual war and will continue addressing the various manifestations of this threat for years and probably decades to come. Demand for SOF will only increase as the United States faces an increasing number of conflicts in the Gray Zone. <http://www.atlanticcouncil.org/publications/reports/the-future-of-the-army>

China's Syria Agenda by Samuel Ramani

China is using the Syrian crisis to assert its influence in the Middle East and throughout the developing world. China may also be using diplomatic power in the region as part of a broader strategy to divert attention from its Gray Zone activities in the South China Sea. <http://thediplomat.com/2016/09/chinas-syria-agenda/>

Event Update

Project Gray Symposium "Russian Engagement in the Gray Zone"

The 2nd Annual Project Gray Symposium — "Russian Engagement in the Gray Zone" — is Oct. 19-20 in Lincoln Hall on the campus of the National Defense University at Fort McNair. Academic scholars, interagency partners, policymakers and military practitioners will discuss geopolitical challenges presented by Russian Gray Zone activities and statecraft in the contemporary security environment.

[Click here](http://www.projectgray.org) for symposium registration or visit www.projectgray.org

Distinguished Lecture Series

Dr. Michael Dennis, a political scientist, who is based in the Syria-Iraq and Middle East Branch, National Ground Intelligence Center, discussed the Chechen diaspora and long-term trends and threats as they relate to the Gray Zone.

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